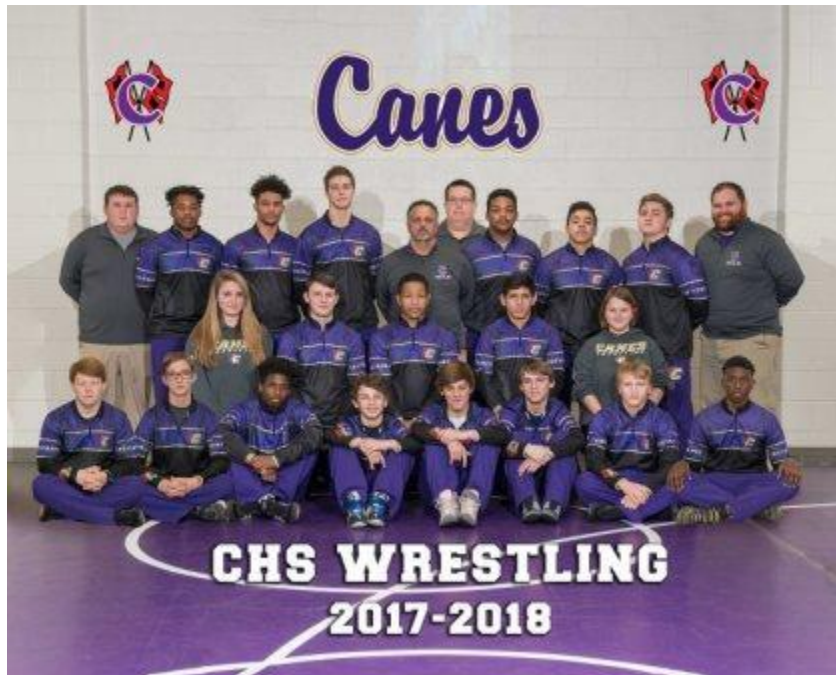


# September 2018 - Cartersville High School Wrestling Team

*Congratulations to our September Volunteers of the Month, the Cartersville High School Wrestling Team. Cartersville High School Wrestling team has been volunteering with Atlanta Track Club for the past three years at the Wingfoot XC Classic as a way of supporting the boys and girls cross country teams. They comprise the parking team, greeting participants as they arrive at Sam Smith Park. Coach Brooks Gayton explains that they like working with Atlanta Track Club "to serve our community and help us develop the skills that will allow us to become successful adults who are contributing members of society." We chatted with Brooks about the team's experiences volunteering.*

**Do you remember your first time volunteering with Atlanta Track Club? What event was it and what brought you back?**

Our first event with Atlanta Track Club was the Wingfoot XC Classic in Cartersville, Georgia in 2015. The Wingfoot XC Classic is our favorite as it is held in our community. We are proud to serve our community whenever possible. As a team made up of high school students, we use this event as an opportunity to learn how to connect with our community by serving others. We learn responsibility and accountability for completing our job as individuals, and how when everyone does their own individual job, that adds up to the team completing the overall job successfully.



**What is your typical volunteer assignment at the race?**

We have always volunteered for parking duty at the Wingfoot XC Classic. We like this assignment because we are the first people that interact with all of the participants when they arrive. We enjoy greeting everyone, and wishing them well before they compete. The duty also allows us to do some team-building as we are spread out over a large

area, and we all have separate roles, but we can all still see that each of us are doing our job and help one another if needed.

**Do you do any volunteering in the community beyond Atlanta Track Club?**

We have participated in many other volunteer activities within our community such as the Cartersville High School football home games, Rome Braves concession stand, and helping set up our Competition Gym when outside organizations rent our facility. We volunteer with these organizations for the same reasons we work with the Atlanta Track Club: to serve our community and help us develop the skills that will allow us to become successful adults who are contributing members of society.

**Tell us something interesting about yourself – an interesting fact or a story that will help us get to know you...**

The Cartersville High School Wrestling Team is made up of 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade male and female students currently enrolled in Cartersville High School. We strive to improve ourselves, both as wrestlers, but also as young adults every day. We are committed to doing our best in everything we do, as our actions represent ourselves, our family, our team, our school, and our community.

This year's team has three returning State Qualifiers leading the way: Desmond Winters (Senior, 195 lbs.), Jabril Williams (Junior, 152 lbs.), and Collin Buffaloe (Junior, 220 lbs.). We have 20 student-athletes currently working out for pre-season strength and conditioning that are not involved with fall sports. We hope to get another 20 athletes to join the team once their fall sport is complete.

We currently have five female student athletes that are training to wrestle this season and we hope to recruit a few more. The Georgia High School Association has sanctioned a Women's State Wrestling Championship Bracket in the 2018-2019 season and we are excited to offer this opportunity to the female students at Cartersville High School in the inaugural year.